

A/AC.172/1993/CRP.14/Add.11
18 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session
Agenda item 12*

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Imre Karbuczky (Hungary)

Addendum

VI. UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS POLICY: IMPLEMENTATION OF
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 43/222 B, PARAGRAPH 4 (h)

Introduction and overview

1. At its 335th meeting, on 24 August 1992, the Committee on Conferences reviewed a conference room paper that contained an annotated provisional outline of the report mandated by General Assembly resolution 46/185 B, section VI (A/AC.172/1992/CRP.1). At the same meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to proceed with the report on publications as outlined in the conference room paper, taking into account the views expressed during the discussion.

2. At its 346th meeting, on 17 May 1993, the Committee on Conferences considered the draft report of the Secretary-General on United Nations publications policy (A/AC.172/153, annex).

Discussion

3. The Committee took the view that the distinction between documents and publications should be formally established. Doubts were expressed as to the value of ex post facto reviews of publications to ensure criteria were met. In particular it was important for current criteria to be applied strictly and for intergovernmental bodies to review recurrent publications to ensure that valid mandates existed, as done by the Statistical Commission.

* A/AC.172/150/Add.1.

4. The quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the documents on which intergovernmental bodies based their work were of primary concern, while a market-oriented approach should be taken towards publications.

5. The Secretariat provided clarification of various elements of the report, confirming that coordination was undertaken with other United Nations organizations and feedback sought from end-users. While many documents and publications were produced internally, some use was made of external expertise at every stage. The internal processing and production of publications was scheduled so as not to interfere with the priority production of parliamentary documents. Information was also given on net revenues from sales of publications and specifically from external publishing arrangements.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that its comments and observations should be taken into account in the preparation of the Secretary-General's final report on publications policy to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.
